

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A printer ~~An imaging device~~ comprising:
a network interface adapted for coupling to a network; and
a processing facility, wherein the processing facility is adapted to request a device configuration to upgrade an internal configuration of the printer ~~imaging device~~ from a second printer ~~imaging device~~ through the network interface in response to receiving an external upgrade command through the network interface from an external management facility and a network location of the second printer ~~imaging device~~, and where the external management facility is resident on a third printer.
2. (Currently Amended) The printer ~~imaging device~~ of claim 1, wherein the device configuration from the second printer ~~imaging device~~ is requested from a storage location associated with the second printer ~~that is selected from the group consisting of: the second imaging device, a local network site, a remote network site, a website, a server, and a third imaging device.~~
3. (Currently Amended) The printer of claim 2 ~~imaging device of claim 1~~, wherein the storage location has one of a predetermined structure of printer configurations, predetermined directory structure, an index file, and a database of upgrades for printer version, type, manufacturer and printer features ~~external upgrade command is given by an external management facility which resides on a platform that is selected from the group consisting of: a workstation, a server, a network device, a management interface on the imaging device, an embedded webserver in an imaging device, and a master imaging device.~~
4. (Currently Amended) The printer ~~imaging device~~ of claim 1, wherein the device configuration from the second printer ~~imaging device~~ is selected from a group consisting of at least one of: firmware code, software code, supplemental data, and a configuration parameter.
5. (Currently Amended) The printer of claim 2 ~~imaging device of claim 4~~, wherein the second printer is dissimilar to the printer, and where the device configuration from the second

~~printer imaging device comprises is converted to upgrade the printer by one of a mask, a configuration mapping function of the management facility, a matching of the configuration of the second printer to an upgrade package on the storage location, and by a matching of a functionality from the second printer to include on the printer during upgrade at least one configuration parameter, where a mask is applied to the at least one configuration parameter to exclude portions thereof from being changed on the imaging device while being upgraded.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A computer-usable medium having computer-readable instructions stored thereon for execution by a processor to perform a method comprising:
- communicating ~~from~~ with a first ~~printer imaging device~~ having a ~~printer device~~ configuration with an ~~internal external~~ management facility;
 - communicating with a defined list of second ~~printers imaging devices~~, each second ~~printer imaging device~~ having a configuration; and
 - directing the second ~~printers imaging devices~~ with the ~~internal external~~ management facility of the first ~~printer imaging device~~ to update their device configuration using a ~~the device configuration of a third printer the first imaging device~~ in a manner selected from the group consisting of: retrieving the ~~printer device~~ configuration from the ~~third printer first imaging device~~, storing the ~~printer device~~ configuration of the ~~third printer first imaging device~~ in a storage location, and directing each of the second ~~printers imaging devices~~ to retrieve the ~~printer device~~ configuration of the ~~third printer first imaging device~~ from the storage location; and directing each of the second ~~printers imaging devices~~ to retrieve the ~~printer device~~ configuration from the ~~third printer first imaging device~~.
7. (Currently Amended) The computer usable medium of claim 6, wherein the ~~printer device~~ configuration is selected from the group consisting of at least one of: firmware code, software code, supplemental data, and a configuration parameter.
8. (Currently Amended) A method of updating device configuration for ~~printers imaging devices~~ connected to a network, comprising:

defining a list of similar first printers ~~imaging devices~~ connected to the network, wherein the similar first printers ~~imaging devices~~ share a common configuration, firmware, software, or supplemental information;

defining a network location associated with a second printer having a desired device configuration for the list of similar first printers imaging devices; and

directing each printer imaging device of the list of similar first printers imaging devices with a an external management facility to retrieve the device configuration from the network location of the second printer, by communicating with each printer imaging device of the list of similar first printers imaging devices across the network with the external management facility, wherein the management facility is an embedded webserver of a third printer.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the network location associated with the second printer has one of a predetermined structure of printer configurations, predetermined directory structure, an index file, and a database of upgrades for printer version, type, manufacturer and printer features for each printer of the list of first printers further comprising:

~~communicating with the imaging devices connected to the network with a management facility, wherein the management facility resides on a platform that is selected from the group consisting of: a workstation, a server, a network device, a management interface on the imaging device, an embedded webserver in an imaging device, and a master imaging device.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 ~~claim 9~~ further comprising:

initiating a follow-up update on each printer of the list of similar first printers if the device configuration of the second printer is changed.

~~retrieving the device configuration of an imaging device similar to the list of imaging devices with the management facility, wherein the similar imaging device shares a common configuration, firmware, software, or supplemental information with the list of imaging devices; and~~

~~placing the device configuration at the network location.~~

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the device configuration is selected from the group consisting of: firmware code, software code, supplemental data, and at least one configuration parameter.
12. (Currently Amended) The method ~~imaging device~~ of claim 8, wherein the device configuration is at least one device configuration parameter, and wherein a mask is applied to the at least one device configuration parameter to exclude portions thereof from being changed on each printer of the list of similar first printers ~~the imaging device~~ while being upgraded.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the second printer is dissimilar to printers of the list of similar first printers, and where the device configuration from the second printer is converted to be compatible with each printer of the list of similar first printers by one of a mask, a configuration mapping function of the management facility, a matching of the configuration of the second printer to an upgrade package on the network location, and by a matching of a functionality from the second printer to include on the printer during upgrade ~~the network location is selected from the group consisting of: an imaging device similar to the list of imaging devices and shares a common configuration, firmware, software, or supplemental information with the list of imaging devices, a local network site, a remote network site, a website, and a server.~~
14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
periodically checking for changes in device configuration, and if a change is noted, initiating a follow-up update.
15. (Currently Amended) A method of upgrading a first printer ~~an imaging device~~, comprising:
receiving across a network an external upgrade command from an external management facility and a network location of a second printer associated with a desired device configuration for the first printer ~~imaging device~~; and

retrieving the desired device configuration from the network location of the second printer with the first printer and upgrading the configuration of the first printer.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the desired device configuration is that of a third printer similar imaging device, wherein the third printer similar imaging device shares a common configuration, firmware, software, or supplemental information with the first printer imaging device.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
receiving the external command from the external management facility, wherein the management facility resides on a platform that is selected from the group consisting of: a workstation, a server, a network device, a management interface on the imaging device, an embedded webserver in a printer an imaging device, and a master printer imaging device.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising:
retrieving the device configuration of a selected third printer imaging device with the a management facility; and
placing the device configuration at the network location of the second printer.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the second printer is dissimilar to the first printer, and where the device configuration from the second printer is converted to upgrade the first printer by one of a mask, a configuration mapping function of the management facility, a matching of the configuration of the second printer to an upgrade package on the storage location, and by a matching of a functionality from the second printer to include on the first printer during upgrade ~~the network location is selected from the group consisting of: an imaging device, a local network site, a remote network site, a website, and a server.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the first printer ~~imaging device~~ selects an appropriate version of the desired device configuration from the network location of the second printer to match its type.